

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4123

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, RO
SUBJECT: NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG:
IULIEN VACREL

1. IULEN VACAREL, NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR WHO (ACCORDING TO SCINTEIA) PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG RESPECTIVELY JUNE 13 AND 12, IS AN ECONOMIST AND PRESUMABLY A FINANCIAL EXPERT. A TECHNOCRAT WHO HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN KNOWN BY EMBASSY STAFF, EITHER PAST OR PRESENT, THE INFORMATION WE HAVE ABOUT HIM IS LITTLE MORE THAN THAT PROVIDED THE BELGIANS WITH THE GOR REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT.

2. SINCE RECEIVING HIS DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS FROM MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY IN 1954, VACAREL HAS BEEN AN OFFICIAL AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, WHERE HE ROSE FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR (1954-60) TO SECRETARY GENERAL (1960-1965), DEPUTY MINISTER (1965-1970) AND, FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE NEWLY-NAMED (MARCH, 1978) MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE HIGHLY REGARDED PAUL NICULESCU, MAY HAVE DESIRED A CHANGE, IT APPEARS THAT VACAREL WAS SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN TO REPRESENT ROMANIA AT THE SEAT OF THE EEC AND AT THE EUROBANKING CENTER OF LUXEMBOURG FOR HIS CREDENTIALS AND EXPERIENCE, AS THERE WAS NO HIATUS BETWEEN ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE MINISTRY AND
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HIS AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT.

3. VACAREL'S SECOND PROFESSION HAS BEEN THAT OF PROFESSOR, AT HIS ALMA MATER, THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST, WHERE HE TAUGHT IN HIS FIELD OF FINANCE AND BANKING. ONE OF OUR SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES TOOK HIS COURSE IN THE MID-1960S, BUT STATES SHE NEVER ACTUALLY ATTENDED CLASS BECAUSE OF VACAREL'S

REPUTATION AS AN UNIMAGINATIVE AND INARTICULATE LECTURER WHO READ FROM A WRITTEN TEXT. SHE ALSO INSISTED THAT HE ENJOYED NO BETTER REPUTATION AS EITHER A WRITER (TEXTBOOKS, COURSE MATERIAL) AMONG HIS ACADEMIC COLLEAGUES (BEARING IN MIND POSSIBLE PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY) OR WITH ANOTHER PROFESSOR AND LIKEWISE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHOM SHE REGARDED HIGHLY AND WHODE CLASSES SHE DID ATTEND.

4. VACAREL WILL BE FIFTY LATER THIS YEAR, AND IS MARRIED. HE IS A CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE AND A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE. ALTHOUGH VACAREL MUST BE A ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER, HE IS NOT KNOWN TO HOLD ANY PARTY OR PARTY-STATE POSITIONS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEES MAY DEVELOP ON AMBASSADOR VACAREL.
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